Mr. BOND. I conclude my remarks by just saying that this country must invest in its future. A research laboratory in space can provide unimaginable benefits to the American people. The space station is the only facility where research can be conducted for long durations in microgravity. The unique environment has only begun to be explored scientifically. American taxpayers are certain to benefit just as they have from other basic research, probably in ways we can never expect.

With that, Madam President, I yield the remaining time to our very distinguished colleague from Ohio, the former astronaut.

Mr. GLENN. I thank the Senator.

The Senator from Arkansas is as accomplished an orator as we have I think in the whole Congress. He would come closer to equaling Daniel Webster, I think, than anyone around here in his ability to give an oration.

Back in 1852, when we were thinking of buying some territory out West from Mexico, Daniel Webster rose in the Senate—he was opposed to that—and said as follows:

> What do we want with this vast worthless area, this region of savages and wild beasts, of deserts of shifting sands and whirlwinds of dust and cactus and prairie dogs? To what use could we ever hope to put these great deserts or the mountains that are covered to their very base with eternal snow? What can we ever hope to do with the western coast, a coast of 3,000 miles rock-bound, cheerless, uninviting, and not a harbor on it? What use have we for this country? Mr. President, I will never vote one cent from the Public Treasury to place the Pacific coast one inch nearer to Boston than it is now.

Madam President, I think probably the view that Daniel Webster took of that acquisition of territory west of the Mississippi is a little bit like the Senator from Arkansas proposes now with regard to the station.

I wish to see something come out of the station. We already have things coming out of the preparation to even have a station. As the floor manager mentioned just a moment ago, we do not even have the station up yet. So to say that that is not producing is exactly right. It is true. It is in the process of being put up. Over one-fourth of it has already been built, 50,000 pounds by our country, 60,000 pounds by other people. Less than seven-tenths of 1 percent of our budget is the total cost of the space station project right now.

From what we can see from the space shuttle with the cultures of crystals and of the experiments that have already been done on growing culture, culturing colon cancer cells, breast cancer cells, ovarian cells, what can be done with regard to AIDS, the experiments with regard to osteoporosis, right now a solution to any one of those would be more than worth all of the money that we are putting into this. This is an investment for the future.

To say that every scientist and physicist is against it is just not true. My distinguished colleague read into the RECORD a few moments ago a partial list of those who are for it—the American Medical Association, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, and so on.

This is one country that should have learned throughout its whole history that money spent on space research usually has a way of paying off in advance—more than anything we ever see at the outset. And with this being the first time we have ever had the ability to do microgravity research, it has the greatest potential payoff also.

Madam President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio has 10 seconds.

Mr. GLENN. I have 10 seconds remaining. I yield back the remainder of my time. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

RECESS UNTIL 2:15 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2.15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:46 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. COATS).

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 2776

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 2:15 p.m. having arrived, there will now be 4 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form to be followed by a vote or in relation to the Bumpers amendment No. 2776.

Who yields time?

Mr. BOND addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, not seeing the proponent of the amendment on the floor, I suggest that the time be equally divided, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the call of the quorum be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MIKULSKI. I ask for 1 minute on behalf of the opponents.

Mr. BOND. I yield 1 minute to the distinguished ranking member.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I absolutely oppose the amendment being offered by the Senator from Arkansas. I thank him for his support of the space program and also for research in the American life science community, but I want to make three points.

The Senator says this is a condo in the sky for going to Mars. We absolutely reject that. We go to Mars, and we are going by robots; we are not going by astronauts. This is to be a science lab, not a condo.

Second, the space station at one time was overweight and underpowered, not unlike the Federal bureaucracy. We streamlined the space station design to make sure that weight, power, and mission match.

And last, but not at all least, there was a question whether we could really assemble the space station in space. When we gave the Hubble space telescope a new contact lens and our astronauts showed the deftness with which they could do mechanical assembly in space, they showed that we could do it. So we now have designs to the mission. We can put it together in space. And it is a science lab, not a condo for astronauts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas has 1 minute 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. BUMPERS. Let me just reiterate, No. 1, much has been made of the fact that the American Medical Association favors the space station. Let me point out that the American Physical Society—40,000 physicists in America—are adamantly opposed to the space station. Why? Because they say the benefits are going to be negligible. You cannot do anything in space with microgravity. Dr. Bloembergen at Harvard says, when you put men on the space station to do microgravity research, you just mess it up. The steps, a bump, destroys microgravity research.

And what is there about a lack of gravity that is going to cure cancer and AIDS and all the rest of it? The answer is nothing. Here are people who really are concerned about the deficit: The Cato Institute, the Concord Coalition, Council for Citizens Against Government Waste, the National Taxpayers Union, Progress in Freedom Foundation, Progressive Policy Institute. Not only do the American physicists oppose it, every one of those organizations strongly oppose it.

This bill, just this bill alone, ravages housing for the elderly, ravages sewer projects, and torpedoes the AmeriCorps Program to make room for this thing. We are going to cut $40 billion out of education in the next 7 years to pay for this?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Arkansas has expired.

The Senator from Missouri has 25 seconds.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I think the argument made very compellingly by our good friend from Arkansas just shows that physicists do not know anything more about biomedical research